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PROGRAM Senator Goldwater Commentary STATION WRC Radio

DATE September 17, 1981 7:24 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT The Leaking of Government Information

KEN ALVORD: Well, should federal employees who leak so-called sensitive information, even though it isn't classified and the employee hasn't signed a secrecy oath, be prosecuted by the government for those leaks.

Senator, what do you think? Should they, or should we draw the line here?

SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER: Well, I don't think we should draw a line. When anybody, whether it's a federal employee or plain John Citizen, releases information of value to the enemy, whether it's classified or not, that individual should be persecuted [sic]. We've had some rules on the book since the President Carter days that have pretty well tied the hands of the Federal Government relative to these people who have stepped outside the intelligence agencies, the FBI, etc., have written books disclosing name, ranks and serial numbers of their co-workers. This has resulted in several deaths. Because these people have mostly worked in covert operations, and the governments against whom they've been working are most anxious to do something about them, something like seeing that they don't live another day.

Now, we have -- not we, but Senator Chafee of the Intelligence Committee has a very, very good bill before the Judiciary Committee, that I believe is being written up today or tomorrow, that will go a long ways towards putting an end to this.

ALVORD: What would that basically do, Senator?

SENATOR GOLDWATER: Well, it would basically take away the rule that the President -- that the Attorney General took

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away yesterday. But it would also add some fines, jail sentences, etcetera, for men like Mr. Agee, who has written books overseas because he's no longer considered an American citizen, and give us a way to get at them so that we can protect the lives of those people who are seeking intelligence to protect the freedom of America.

ALVORD: All right. Now flip-side of the coin, Senator. Now, instead, let's take an employee who leaks politically embarrassing information about a government agency. No lives involved here, but basically politics and embarrassment. What do we do to him?

SENATOR GOLDWATER: That's another horse. You're playing another ballgame now. I'm talking about people who disclose information of value to the enemy.

Now, the type of information you're talking about -- I'm thinking about individuals who have told of unnecessary overloading of costs. I don't consider that to be in the same class. It's a different type of thing, and we're not particularly interested in that. In fact, I think they -- that type of person should be rewarded.

ALVORD: Okay. Thank you.